



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. • Hybrid Meeting 50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA

CALL TO ORDER – 6:39 PM

ROLL CALL

- A. Consider any request of a committee member to attend the meeting remotely under the “Emergency Circumstances” of AB 2449 – Etherton reported that Salmon requested to join remotely under the just cause provisions; the remaining committee members approved.

Committee members present: Becker, Calmes, Ebel, Fieldman, Nunan, Rogers, Salmon (remote)

Staff members present: Sustainability Manager, Etherton; Deputy Director of Public Works, Kinser; Sustainability Intern, Brogley (remote)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Nunan moved to adopt the agenda and Becker seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Etherton noted that Sustainability Intern Brogley was joining remotely, and Gianna briefly introduced herself
- Fieldman reported that SB252 Fossil Fuel Divestment bill, which was supported by OSEC and the City Council, passed the state Senate but was held up in the Assembly; she believes there will be a hearing in fall. Strong support in recent LA Times editorials.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- B. Minutes of May 24, 2023 – Nunan moved to approve the minutes and Ebel seconded; the motion was adopted with all in favor except Fieldman who abstained since she was absent.

OLD BUSINESS

- C. Quarry Development update – Etherton reported that the deficiencies in the developer’s application were not sufficient enough to impact the project definition for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and therefore a new Notice of Preparation was not expected. She did not have further information on the deficiencies but was told that the EIR was expected late this year, likely before the Baylands EIR or in any case they would not be out simultaneously.

NEW BUSINESS

- D. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- a. Salmon nominated and Ebel seconded Becker for Chair; Chair Calmes held a roll call vote which was unanimous in support

- b. Rogers nominated and Ebel seconded Nunan for Vice Chair; Chair Calmes held a roll call vote which was unanimous in support

E. Day in the Park booth

- a. Rogers reported on the Event subcommittee's plans for pest deterrents out of old CDs; Ebel noted that they delaminate quickly in the elements and encouraged consideration of gluing two of them together or applying coating to keep them together longer.
- b. Fieldman suggested a heat pump promotion of some sort; after discussion agreed that Peninsula Clean Energy having a table to promote their programs and rebates would be ideal and Etherton will reach out to see if they will host a table next to us
- c. Fieldman also suggested revisiting the carbon footprint piñata.
- d. Ebel and Becker described some dark skies outreach ideas, including having a link or QR code for a community survey there. Etherton shared an idea for community members to share their favorite dark skies memories on post-its on an easel or paper hung on the back wall of the tent. Becker noted the Dark Skies subcommittee had suggested moving the display to the library after Day in the Park to extend the impact.

F. Tree inventory project and outreach

- a. Etherton shared proposals from PlanITGeo for a Public Tree Inventory and TreePlotter and Canopy software licenses and noted the budget included \$40,000 for these items. The group discussed the pros and cons of the various options.
- b. Limit the scope of the tree inventory to trees over a certain size or not including the Brisbane Acres if we are going to go over the 5000 tree limit (and thus over budget)
- c. Include Canopy software for one year; try to see if they can use 2023 data or if we can negotiate the price down if not
- d. Calmes moved to utilize the full budget for the tree inventory including risk assessment and one year of Canopy software; Ebel seconded, and all voted in favor

STAFF UPDATES

Etherton:

- Chamber CEO Davis asked about volunteer ideas for a local company give-back day
 - Ebel noted she had created a list in the past that she would try to find and send to Etherton
 - Rescue trees on Quarry Road from ivy, or remove ivy from Firth or Costaños Canyons (questions about stability of Firth)
 - Pulling broom along Crocker Trail. The group also noted gorse on the back of the horseshoe though that is not a good volunteer activity. Fieldman asked to agenzize goats for an upcoming meeting.
- Fieldman notes hearing of a recommendation to suspend SB1383 by the Little Hoover Commission and suggested the committee or city send a letter discouraging such; she will send the article to Etherton.

Kinser: Shared that she and Bob Sage escorted Wildlife Conservation Board staff on an audit of the Brisbane Acres their grant funds had helped the City purchase.

Brogley: Reported 74% compliance with the annual benchmarking requirements and citations sent out this week to noncompliant; many buildings coming into compliance with Beyond requirements as well and notices of violation for those that aren't will also go out soon.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Events (Rogers, Salmon, Nunan) – previously covered
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, Rogers) – no update
- *Building Decarbonization (Becker, Ebel, Fieldman) – Etherton will schedule a meeting
- *Open Space Plan Update (Calmes, Rogers, Salmon) – Kinser working to get documents prepared for the subcommittee; she will email the subcommittee
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Nunan, Calmes) – weed-whacking in the channel; Kinser notes it was the property owner and she is investigating if Fire sent a letter about weed abatement despite her requesting them not to
- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Becker, Fieldman, Nunan) – Kinser reported she has received feedback from the PW Director and had concerns with code enforcement identifying plants. She will schedule a subcommittee meeting.
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (Becker, Ebel, Salmon) – has met twice since OSEC's last meeting; brought on a dark skies consultant who provided recommendations that staff and the subcommittee are working through; recently focused on outreach previously discussed
- *Tree Issues (Calmes, Ebel, Salmon) – previously covered inventory/canopy plan; Calmes noted she and Ebel are working on a recommended street tree list; Kinser noted a purchase order and tree company set to plant a Jacaranda in the median of Alvarado and San Francisco; Etherton noted that Salmon had drafted an article for the STAR
- Baylands Specific Plan subcommittees – no updates but keep on active list; discussed the review process.

CALENDAR ITEMS – the group briefly reviewed the calendar, with Etherton noting that Coastal Cleanup Day was in fact Sept 23, not the 16th as listed.

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS

- Rogers asked about Crocker Trail project coming in under budget and being able to use any excess grant funds for goats to address the gorse at the back of the horseshoe. Kinser noted that it was a federally funded project that had to go through environmental review for specific activities included in the grant application, and also that there had already been some cost increases due to needs not captured in the original contract.

NEXT MEETING: August 23, 2023; Becker will be remote for the next two meetings and Calmes will be absent in August

ADJOURNMENT – 8:33 PM